A devastating galactic war was waged between the Kree Empire, ruled by Black Bolt and the Inhuman royal family, and the Shi'Ar Imperium, controlled by the despotic mutant Vulcan.

As the war escalated beyond resolution, Black Bolt was forced to enact his ultimate contingency plan: the T-Bomb. Powered by his voice, the device was designed to spread a shockwave of Terrigen, the transmuting property that gives the Inhumans their powers, throughout the galaxy. The intended result of the weapon: the physical mutation of all races and the end of genetic divisions.

The Shi'Ar emperor ambushed Black Bolt on the T-Bomb, and after the bomb was rendered inert, the Inhuman king was forced to detonate the missile in an effort to kill Vulcan to put an end to the war. However, the resulting explosion punctured the fabric of time and space, creating the dangerous realm known as The Fault.

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OH, HEY, STAR-LORD. I WAS JUST...THINKING ABOUT THE MISSION. I SHOULD GO IN FIRST.
HECK OF A RISK, WENDELL...
LESS FOR ME THAN MOST. MY ENERGY FORM SHOULD GIVE ME SUPERIOR PROTECTION AGAINST THE FAULT'S STORMS.
THE FAULT IS A GIGANTIC TEAR IN TIME AND SPACE CAUSED BY THE DETONATION OF THE TERRIGEN-BOMB THAT ENDED THE BRUTAL KREE-SHI'AR WAR.
A BUNCH OF US HAVE GATHERED ON KNOWHERE TO DECIDE HOW TO DEAL WITH THE EMERGENCY.
KNOWHERE'S THE PAN-COSMIC HEADQUARTERS OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY. AND--YEAH--IT'S A FLOATING HEAD OF A CELESTIAL.
ON ANY OTHER DAY, THE MYSTERY OF WHAT COULD DECAPITATE A CELESTIAL WOULD HAVE BEEN TOP OF THE NEWS. BUT...
THE FAULT'S A DISASTER ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE...
...IT'S THE KIND OF CRISIS THE GUARDIANS WERE FORMED TO COMBAT.
TOO BAD NO ONE WOULD LISTEN TO US WHEN WE SAID THE ANNIHILATION WARS WEAKENED THE FABRIC OF THE UNIVERSE. IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE SOME DISASTER WENT AND BUSTED THE WHOLE FLARKING MESS WIDE OPEN.
BUT THE GUARDIANS WERE RIGHT THERE TO PICK UP THE PIECES, ROCKET.
RIGHT. WE STOPPED THE FAULT FROM SPREADING ANY FURTHER AND EATING REALITY.
BUT IT COST US. BOY, IT COST US*.
*SEE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #20 FOR THE SHOCKING EVENTS -STILL SHOCKED BILL.
IT DID. BUT ALL THAT MATTERS NOW IS WE SEAL THE RIFT ONCE AND FOR ALL.

WEIRD THOUGH IT IS TO HEAR MYSELF SAY THIS, BUT I AGREE WITH DRAX.
THE NOVA CORPS HAS BEEN PATROLLING THE PERIMETER OF THE FAULT SINCE IT FIRST OPENED, AND WE'VE ALREADY ENCOUNTERED SEVERAL STRANGE ENTITIES.*
*SEE NOVA #29 AND #30 -OFFICER BILL.
I'M TALKING ABOUT REFUGEES, CASTAWAYS FROM OTHER GALAXIES WHO HAVE BEEN SUCKED UP LIKE DRIFTWOOD AND WASHED INTO OUR DIMENSION.
IN TERMS OF SECURITY ALONE, WE NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT, AND QUICKLY.
PROJECT P.E.G.A.S.U.S. ISN'T IN YOUR LEAGUE, STAR-LORD, OR YOURS, NOVA, SO WE APPRECIATE YOU PLAYING BALL WITH US.
ANY DATA YOU CAN GIVE US...
THEN IT'S DATA WE NEED TO GATHER.
LIKE MY GOOD FRIEND NOVA, DOCTOR GRUENWALD IS SPEAKING TO US VIA A TELEPRESENT HOLOGRAPHIC RELAY.
HE'S COMMUNICATING DIRECTLY FROM EARTH, WHERE HE'S BEEN HASTILY REINSTATED AS HEAD OF P.E.G.A.S.U.S. IN RESPONSE TO THE APPEARANCE OF THE FAULT.
I'LL MAKE THE FIRST SCOUTING TRIP. NO ARGUMENTS.
I MEAN, WHAT'S THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN? I'VE DIED BEFORE.
IT WAS NO BIG DEAL.
YOU ALL CAN MONITOR MY QUANTUM LINK. ANY FURTHER COMMENTS?
I AM GROOT!
SO NOTED. OKAY, I THINK I'M GOOD TO GO.
THE LEVELS OF TURBULENCE AND DISTORTION INSIDE THE FAULT ARE MONUMENTAL.
THE CURRENTS AND GRAVIMETRIC PRESSURES OF PARALLEL GALAXIES AND TIMELINES ARE OVERLAPPING AND GRINDING AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.
THIS IS LIKE A WOUND IN SPACE-TIME, WITH SHRAPNEL AND DEBRIS PULLED INTO IT FROM COUNTLESS REALITIES.

KZZZTT
SHOOM
UH, DOC?
DOCTOR GRUENWALD? THIS IS QUASAR ON THE QUANTUM LINK. NOVA? STAR-LORD?
ANYONE RECEIVING ME?
GUYS, IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM.
AND I FEEL LIKE I'VE CHANGED. SOMEHOW JUST TRAVELING INTO THE FAULT HAS RECOMPOSED MY FORM AND--
MY GOD.
I'M BACK ON... EARTH?
NOW WHAT?

HOLY CRUD.
WHAT ARE YOU?
HEY, HANDS OFF! THIS IS OUR FIRST DATE!
I'M TASTING RAW GAMMA RADS, AND SOME SERIOUSLY TOXIC EXOTICS.
PLUS SOMETHING WORSE. THIS THING REEKS OF LOST AEONS AND DEAD STARS.
KROOM
WHOA! YOU'RE EVEN FASTER THAN YOU'RE NASTY-LOOKING!
AND HAVE I MENTIONED HOW BAD YOU SMELL?
IT'S THE SORT OF STENCH THAT I'VE ONLY EVER SENSED IN THE MOST DARK AND DISTANT CORNERS OF THE UNIVERSE.
IT'S...IT'S FREAKING ME OUT.
B-DOOM
THE STARS ARE WRONG

I'M BABBLING, BUT I CAN'T HELP IT. THE CLOSER I GET TO IT, THE MORE I FEEL...FEAR.
PRIMAL FEAR.
MAYBE WE GOT OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT. LET'S START AGAIN. MY NAME'S WENDELL VAUGHN. I'LL BE YOUR PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE.
SMACK
UGHNNN!
HOW IS IT EVEN DOING THAT? I EXIST AS AN ENERGIZED QUANTUM GHOST, AND IT'S STILL RIPPING INTO ME LIKE I'M FLESH AND BLOOD!
THEN, JUST TO ADD TO THE INSANITY...
PUT THE GENIE BACK IN THE BOX, PEOPLE.
NOW.
...HELP ARRIVES.

GOOD WORK KEEPING IT OCCUPIED, QUASAR.
HELL OF A THING TO FACE SOLO. I THOUGHT WE'D FIND MOST OF MANHATTAN FLAT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? MANHATTAN?!
BUT EVERYTHING IS SO CHANGED!
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE USUAL.
HE GOT OUT AGAIN! HE SENSED SOMETHING, AND IT SET HIM OFF! HE BROKE THROUGH HIS WARDS AND WENT BERSERK!
HE? HE WHO?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? AND WHY ARE YOU BACK SO SOON?
WAIT... YOU'RE NOT QUASAR.
HE'S NOT. HE'S FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE.
A LONG WAY AWAY. AN OTHER PLACE.
INVESTIGATE LATER! WE NEED A CONTAINMENT HEX AROUND THIS RIGHT NOW!
THOR? HAMMER HIM.

THE ODINSON WILL TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN--
UGHNN!
MISBEGOTTEN BY-BLOW!
WHAT...WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?
LOOK AT THOR'S FACE!
WHAT THE FTAGHN ARE YOU WHINING ABOUT?

GRAAGH!
KLOM

HE'S DOWN! BANNER'S DOWN!
B-BANNER? THAT WAS...THE HULK?
OF COURSE.
WE'VE GIVEN HIM ENOUGH CHANCES. HE'S TOO DANGEROUS AND UNSTABLE TO HAVE AROUND IN THE CURRENT CRISIS.
ANTHONY? YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
SKLITCH
WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU--
BEFORE I COULD STOP HIM, IRON MAN PULLED BRUCE BANNER'S HEART OUT OF HIS CHEST!
I JUST WATCHED HIM TEAR HIS HEART OUT!
I FEEL THE FEAR RUSHING IN AGAIN, EVEN THOUGH I'M FIGHTING IT. I FREEZE. I CAN'T MOVE.
THEN I REALIZE THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT. A HEX BY THE SCARLET WITCH.
SO, YOU'RE NOT OUR QUASAR AT ALL.
INTERESTING.
WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM?

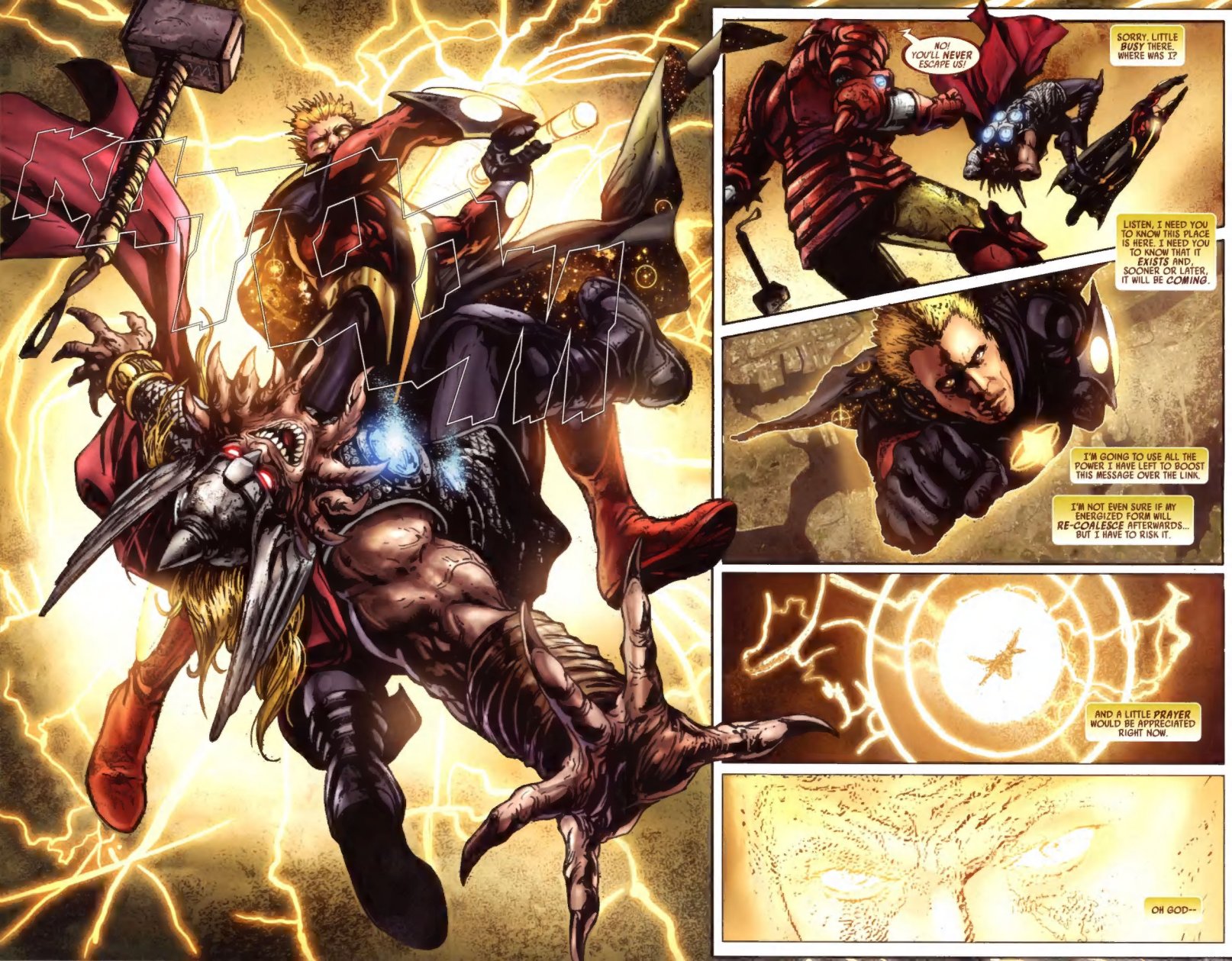
THE TANKEZOHEDRON.
WHERE AM I?
EARTH.
GIFTS FROM THE MANY-ANGLED ONES. IN RETURN FOR OUR ADORATION.
YOUR POWERS... HOW...?
NOT MY EARTH.
APPARENTLY.
I KNOW THE AVENGERS. EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS PLACE IS WRONG. YOU'RE ALL WRONG.
THIS ISN'T EVEN MY UNIVERSE. IT REEKS OF CORRUPTION.
FOR A [redacted] WITH NO HOPE OF ESCAPE, HE'S GOT A MOUTH ON HIM.
THEN LET'S OBLIGE HIM TO USE IT.
SO FAR, HE'S BEEN THE ONE ASKING THE QUESTIONS.
WE HAVE BECOME AWARE OF A MASSIVE SPACE/TIME FISSURE. IT INTERESTS US.
THE FAULT.
EXCUSE ME?
IT'S A NAME WE PICKED UP FROM KREE TRANSMISSIONS. THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE CALLING THE FISSURE.
AS GOOD A [redacted] AS ANY, I SUPPOSE.

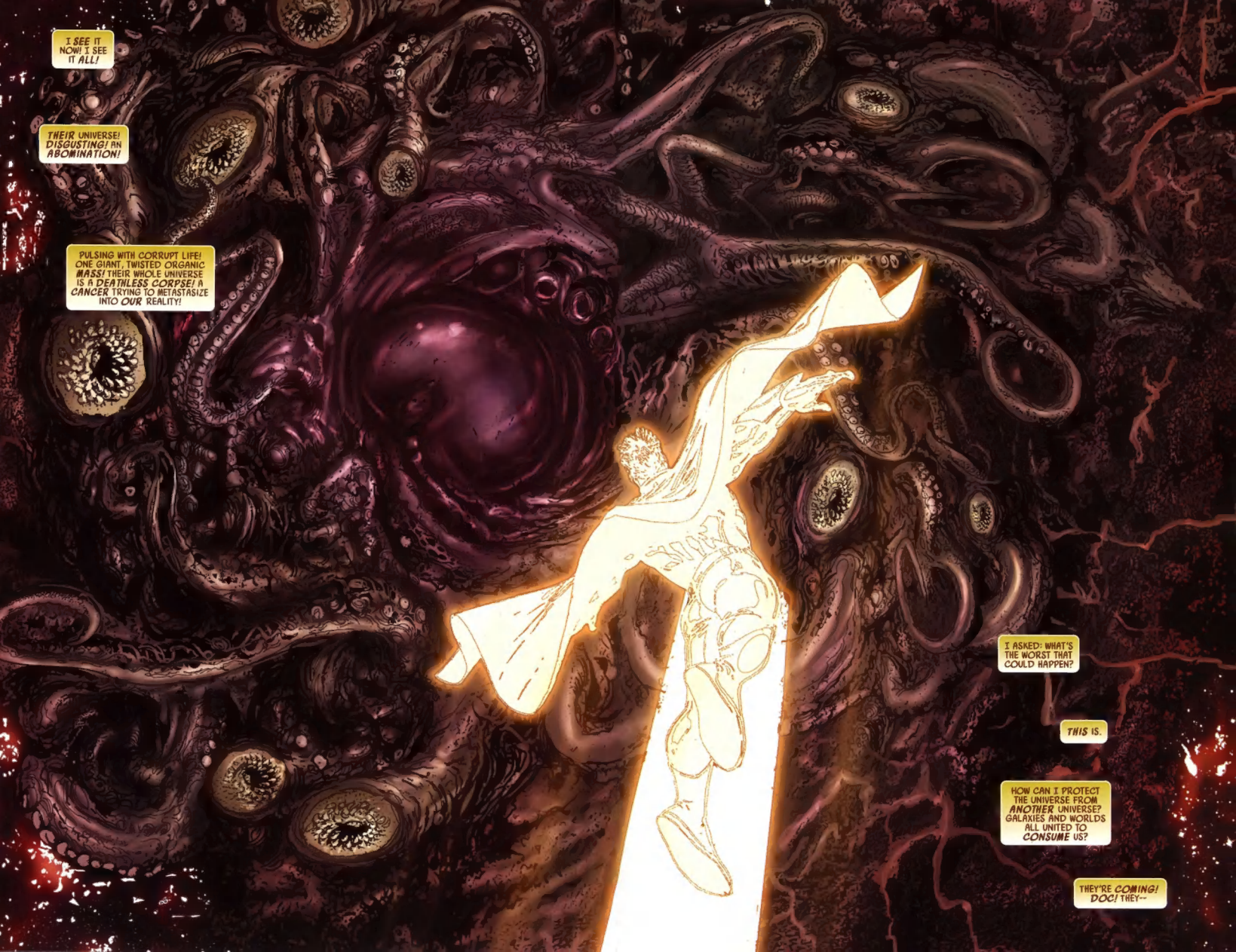
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, YES.
THIS WORLD. THIS EARTH. IT'S WHAT'S AT THE END OF THE FAULT...
THAT'S OBVIOUS...EARTH. ANOTHER ITERATION, SOME FEEBLE COPY OR ECHO.
WHICH PROVES THERE IS A FAR SIDE TO THIS FAULT.
YOU SEE, THE MANY-ANGLED ONES HAVE FILLED THIS UNIVERSE, BUT THEY'RE STILL HUNGRY.
THERE IS NO ROOM LEFT FOR THEM TO GROW AND EXPAND. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
I WILL EMPLOY ANY AND EVERY METHOD I CAN TO FIND NEW TERRITORIES FOR OUR GODS TO WALK UPON.
NEW WORLDS TO CONQUER. A RESTORATION OF [redacted] ANGLES OF ETHERIC HARMONY.
OUR QUASAR WENT OUT TO FIND IF THIS FAULT LED ANYWHERE. DID HE KILL HIM?
POSSIBLY. SO, SOLDIER, THIS EARTH OF YOURS? HOW DO [redacted] GET THERE?
LET [redacted] GET THIS STRAIGHT... YOU SEE THE FAULT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRADE UP FROM A UNIVERSE YOU'VE USED UP AND OUT-GROWN?
AND YOU THINK I MIGHT LEAD YOU TO THE SORT OF REAL ESTATE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN?
THAT'S RIGHT.

HOW DO [redacted] ACHIEVE CONTACT, WANDA?
I WILL NEED A FEW HOURS TO PLOT THE QUANTUM LINK IN DETAIL.
BY THEN, [redacted] NEED TO HAVE PREPARED [redacted] YOT-SOTERIC ENCHANTMENT TO TRANSFER OUR PLANET OUT OF OUR REALITY AND SAFELY ASSERT ITS DOMINANCE OVER HIS WORLD.
I HAVE ALREADY SENT THOR AND [redacted] MARVEL TO BEGIN THE PUBLIC HECATOMB.
PLEASE CLEAR THE ROOM. I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE.
WE'LL GET TO WORK.
ANTHONY, I'LL LET THE PRESIDENT KNOW WE'VE GOT [redacted] VIABLE PLAN.
WHAT DOES ASSERT MEAN?
WHAT?
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO... I DUNNO...CONJURE THIS PLANET THROUGH THE FAULT AND ASSERT IT OVER MINE.
WHAT DOES ASSERT MEAN?
THIS WORLD WILL [redacted] SECURELY ANCHORED BACK IN REALITY, WITH THE DOORS OF ETERNITY OPEN ONCE MORE TO RECEIVE THE BENEDICTION OF THE OUTER GODS.
AND WHAT HAPPENS TO MY EARTH THEN?
WELL, IT WILL [redacted] OBLITERATED.
YOU SAID YOU WERE SORRY. BACK THEN, WHEN YOU TOLD [redacted] HOW TO USE ME, YOU SAID YOU WERE SORRY.
IT SOUNDED LIKE YOU MEANT IT.
I DID.
THEY SCARE YOU, DON'T THEY?
[redacted] WHY DID YOU DO IT? WHY DID YOU TELL THEM ABOUT ME?
BECAUSE TONY STARK AND HANK PYM ARE GENIUSES, AND THEY WOULD [redacted] FIGURED IT OUT EVENTUALLY.
WHAT?! WHAT'S [redacted] MATTER WITH--
FWASH!
UNNH!
THEY ALL SCARE ME. I SCARE ME. I SHUDDER TO CONTEMPLATE THE... THINGS THAT WE HAVE ALLOWED TO RESIDE WITHIN US.
TO SNATCH OUR BODIES AND ENSLAVE OUR MINDS.
AND THEY WOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT I HAD KEPT IT FROM THEM.
AND THEN I WOULD HAVE HAD REASON TO BE TRULY TERRIFIED.

STAR-LORD? NOVA? DOCTOR GRUENWALD?
I DON'T KNOW IF ANY OF YOU CAN HEAR ME. I'M SENDING THIS ■ THE DESPERATE HOPE YOU CAN.
THE FAULT ISN'T JUST A RIP. IT'S MORE LIKE A TUNNEL. AND THERE'S SOMETHING AT THE FAR END. ANOTHER UNIVERSE. ANOTHER EARTH. IT'S LIKE OURS ■ SO MANY WAYS EXCEPT IT'S...I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT...
IT'S SURRENDERED ITSELF TO DARK INTELLIGENCES, ANCIENT CREATURES THAT ARE TOO TERRIFYING TO CONTEMPLATE. I--
ONE SEC...

GET OFF MY CASE!
YOU'RE TOO PRECIOUS TO LOSE.
I'M JUST STEERING YOU IN FOR COLLECTION.
OH CRUD.
SMACK INTO THE PATH OF AN INSANE NORSE GOD-MONSTER.
PITIFUL WHELP! YOU ARE A FAILURE AND A--


NO! YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE US!
SORRY. LITTLE BUSY THERE. WHERE WAS I?
LISTEN, I NEED YOU TO KNOW THIS PLACE IS HERE. I NEED YOU TO KNOW THAT IT EXISTS AND, SOONER OR LATER, IT WILL BE COMING.
I'M GOING TO USE ALL THE POWER I HAVE LEFT TO BOOST THIS MESSAGE OVER THE LINK.
I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF MY ENERGIZED FORM WILL RE-COALESCE AFTERWARDS... BUT I HAVE TO RISK IT.
AND A LITTLE PRAYER WOULD BE APPRECIATED RIGHT NOW.
OH GOD--


I SEE IT NOW! I SEE IT ALL!
THEIR UNIVERSE! DISGUSTING! AN ABOMINATION!
PULSING WITH CORRUPT LIFE! ONE GIANT, TWISTED ORGANIC MASS! THEIR WHOLE UNIVERSE IS A DEATHLESS CORPSE! A CANCER TRYING TO METASTASIZE INTO OUR REALITY!
I ASKED: WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?
THIS IS.
HOW CAN I PROTECT THE UNIVERSE FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE? GALAXIES AND WORLDS ALL UNITED TO CONSUME US?
THEY'RE COMING! DOC! THEY--

INHUMANS

BLACK BOLT MAY BE GONE, BUT THE ROYAL FAMILY OF THE INHUMANS CONTINUE THEIR QUEST FOR GALACTIC DOMINATION! BY ABNETT & LANNING AND PABLO RAIMONDI (X-FACTOR)!